



13th July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the summer term and the academic year, I would like to thank you, on behalf of all of our staff, for your support of the school throughout the year; it has been wonderful to move towards a more 'normal' school environment throughout the year. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and healthy summer break filled with family and fun.

Fundraising

Many thanks to all of our parents, carers, grandparents and friends of the school for your support of our recent summer fair. Our fundraising team members generously give their time to these events for our school and we are very grateful for their creativity and generosity. As a result of the efforts made by our parents to sell raffle tickets, give donations to the school and come along to our summer event, we raised £2000 for which we are very grateful. Money raised will go towards adding new play surfacing at the primary site, improvements to the secondary phase playground and next year's Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Thank you for all of your textiles donations to school this week. Thanks to you, we have raised £60 which will go towards outdoor play equipment at the primary phase.

Opal

From September, the school will begin working with Opal (Outdoor Learning and Play), an organisation that specialises in making '20% of a child's day in school 100% better' - this refers specifically to break and lunch times and ensuring that this period of a child's school day meets all of their 'play' needs - and much of our fundraising over the next school year will be spent on improving our outdoor play opportunities at the primary site.

There will be a meeting for parents next academic year where we will share our plans with you and introduce you to our Opal representative. This video below shows an example of a primary school playground after receiving support from Opal:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cm7IfAEsjqI>

Secondary phase playground improvements

The secondary phase playground has already had a transformation thanks to recent donations from our parents: an outdoor ping-pong table, football nets, giant Connect 4, giant Jenga, giant Dominoes, tyres, a silk parachute and much more have all been recently donated. We

Headteacher: Mrs L Edwards BA(Hons), PGCE.

Tel: 01695 729912 Email: enquiries@maharishischool.com www.maharishischool.com

Cobbs Brow Lane, Lathom, Ormskirk, Lancashire L40 6JJ

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have also bought two picnic tables with benches and parasols, and several other games, which have been painted on the ground, are proving popular. Thanks to your generosity, the break time experience of our secondary pupils has been hugely enhanced.

Primary news

Reception class have had a wonderful start to their school life, made lots of new friendships and have achieved so much. At the recent Windmill Farm trip, the children enjoyed feeding the lambs, riding on the tractors and meeting a very big tarantula! Year 1 also had a fabulous day at Windmill Farm and got the opportunity to hold a snake and a lizard! Year 1 enjoyed writing their very own comic books this half term, which they read to the reception class children - they created some amazing characters! Year 2 have loved growing their own plants this term and have enjoyed watching how much they have grown. They also wrote their own creative stories and made them into their very own mini books - just like a real author!

Year 3 have loved learning about pollination; acting as bees, as they buzzed around our 3D flowers, complete with cheesy wotsits for pollen and a lolly for sweet nectar. Year 4 enjoyed creating their own Egyptian masks; they used paper mache to help shape the face and experimented with different tones of paint to create their own 'look'. They have also worked really hard on their times tables this term and we are very proud of them. Mrs Moss and year 5 have really enjoyed getting to know each other over the past term. Year 5 have enjoyed creating a class timeline of their lives as well as creating Rainforest 3D artwork. For year 6, this term started with SATs; we are all incredibly proud of how the pupils conducted themselves and they all really enjoyed starting each day with a shared breakfast. The week ended with a wonderful trip to Beacon Country Park where the class played manhunt in the woods and all 18 children rolled down the hill together! Year 6 have also been to PGL this term for the year 6 annual residential, where children were able to try a variety of new activities. The term ended with their school play and they really did all shine!

Secondary news

We said farewell to our year 11 pupils this half term: after their final GCSE examination, the entire secondary phase joined the year 11's at Beacon Country Park for a carousel of outdoor activities. Further celebrations took place the following week when year 11 pupils had their 'prom' at Parbold Village Hall. The pupils looked very smart and glamorous in their outfits and enjoyed a disco, a photo booth, a quiz and presentations.

45 pupils received their Duke of Edinburgh bronze awards (or Achievement award for the few who did not manage to do the expeditions). We managed to purchase lots of new equipment from fundraising (The Tesco fundraiser) and a donation (Tobbell Foundation) and we are already planning our next year's Bronze (18 so far) and Silver (14 so far) groups for the following year.

Year 10 pupils have successfully completed their GCSE English Language presentations - with confidence! Pupils considered their audience carefully and worked hard to produce relevant slides and in depth research. Year 9 have made a great start to their GCSE English Literature and will be sitting their examination a whole year early!

A further edition of secondary phase magazine has been released. The magazine team focuses on issues of importance to the students, and is written by them. It is still in its infancy, with 3 issues under our belts; however, we can already see that valuable skills are being developed through this project. It takes dedication, research skills and an ability to work to deadlines; invaluable skills for studies and for future employment. The team works extremely hard in their own time during breaks/lunch and at home and we are already working on a new layout, new ideas and articles, and are welcoming two new students to the

team from September.

Transcendental Meditation continues to be a settled and cohesive experience. Year 10, especially, reported deepening understanding of transcending and consciousness in CbIDS this year.

Staff farewells and welcomes

This year, we are saying goodbye to some much loved staff members. Mr Mitchell is retiring after 20 years as our school bursar; his contribution to the school goes way beyond his job title and we will miss him very much. We will be welcoming Mr Magee, an experienced school business manager, who has recently learned Transcendental Meditation (TM) and is looking forward to joining our team.

Miss Riaz is leaving us after five years as our reception teacher and has been an integral part of our school family. We wish her success in her next adventure. We will be welcoming Mrs Baldwin who is an experienced teacher, has learned TM and has already begun getting to know our new reception pupils and parents at our 'stay and play' sessions. Miss Eaton is leaving us at the end of this term. Her teaching role in year 2 over the last year has been invaluable and we wish Miss Eaton every success in the future. We are welcoming back Mrs Freel, following her maternity leave, who will be job sharing with Mrs Lymath in year 2.

Mrs Smart is joining our primary phase TA team, Mrs Parrott is transferring her TA skills from the secondary to the primary and Ms Lea Hayes is joining our secondary phase TA team. Mrs Aspinall, our finance officer since 2014, has moved on to a new challenge. We wish her every success and happiness and look forward to seeing her at future school events.

Next year's classes

Our primary phase class teachers for September will be as follows:

Reception	Mrs Baldwin
Year 1	Miss Jones
Year 2	Mrs Freel and Mrs Lymath
Year 3	Miss Lunn
Year 4	Mr Lowrie
Year 5	Mrs Gaskell
Year 6	Mrs Moss

We look forward to seeing you again on **Thursday 8 September** at **9:15am** at both phases.



Mrs Edwards
Headteacher

"He who is ever awake keeps knowledge alive however far he proceeds. Through the alternation of rest and activity, our awareness opens to a more comprehensive vision. By thus increasing our awareness of both extremes of thought, we open a highway from silence to greater activity and thereby gain greater access to the flow of creative intelligence.

When the mind functions while remaining ever steadfast in the state of tranquility, the full range of creative intelligence becomes lively. In that state one makes no mistakes. Every inspiration is right and leads to correct action for maximum achievement."

Maharishi Mahesh Yogi